



# PLANNING FOR THE CENTRAL CORRIDOR IN THE CITY OF SAINT PAUL - 2008 & 2009

Planning for light rail transit in the Central Corridor has been a collaborative effort between the Metropolitan Council, the cities of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, the Minnesota Department of Transportation, the Ramsey and Hennepin County Regional Rail Authorities, and the University of Minnesota. Over the past two years the planning process has involved numerous stakeholders, including residents, business owners, property owners, institutional representatives, and many others who have contributed to the process.

## PROJECT MILESTONES:

### Central Corridor Development Strategy (CCDS)

- Nine-month process to create and adopt the *Central Corridor Development Strategy*, which is a vision and set of strategies for how University Avenue, the Capitol area, and Downtown should grow and change over the next 25-30 years in response to the planned investment in light rail transit (LRT).
- Process involved numerous meetings of the University Avenue and Capitol/Downtown task forces, public presentations, open house events, and input from hundreds of community members and business owners.
- The CCDS was approved by the Planning Commission and adopted by the City Council as part of the City's Comprehensive Plan in October of 2007.

### Station Area Planning on University Avenue: Westgate, Raymond, Fairview, Snelling, Lexington, Dale and Rice

- The Station Area Planning Steering Committee was appointed by the Planning Commission in October of 2007 to oversee development of plans for the areas around the seven proposed stations along University Avenue.
- The plans address the areas approximately 1/4 mile around each proposed station. Plans address issues of building scale; public realm and open space; public art; and bicycle, pedestrian, transit, and automobile movement.
- During the course of the process three public roundtable events, seven day-long workshops, and a community open house were held to produce the content of the station area plans.
- The Committee forwarded the plans to the Planning Commission for public hearings in July. Following the hearings, the plans were adopted by the Mayor and City Council in October, 2008 as addenda to the *Central Corridor Development Strategy*.

## PROJECT PARTNERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

### Metropolitan Council ([www.centralcorridor.org](http://www.centralcorridor.org))

- Lead agency responsible for design, construction, and operation of the line.
- In charge of line-wide decisions including station location and configuration, alignment, determining ridership and cost effectiveness, preliminary engineering, public involvement and business construction mitigation measures.
- Currently in the Preliminary Engineering phase and expect to move into Final Design in early 2009. Construction is scheduled to start in 2010, with operations beginning in 2014.
- Responsible for the environmental review process, including the Draft, Supplemental Draft, and Final Environmental Impact Statements (DEIS, SDEIS, and FEIS).

### City of Saint Paul ([www.stpaul.gov/centralcorridor](http://www.stpaul.gov/centralcorridor))

- Responsible for the land use planning and development component including zoning code regulations; public realm improvements; improvements to pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular movement; and programs to assist residential and business development.
- Activities in 2009 will include station area planning for downtown (4<sup>th</sup>/Cedar and Union Depot), and for three additional stations on University at Western, Victoria, and Hamline. Work on a study of zoning code regulations to implement station area planning will also begin in 2009.